

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL

No. 569

Session of  
1979

INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. LIVENGOD, ZORD, PETERSON, L. E. SMITH,  
D. R. WRIGHT, C. GEORGE, LETTERMAN, STEIGHNER, RODGERS AND  
COCHRAN, MARCH 7, 1979

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON LABOR RELATIONS, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 29, 1980

## AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 30, 1976 (P.L.1205, No.264),  
2 entitled "An act defining emergency medical technician;  
3 authorizing such personnel to render emergency care;  
4 exempting such personnel and physicians working in  
5 conjunction with them from civil liability when rendering  
6 such care; and making repeals," further providing for  
7 additional job protection for emergency medical technician or  
8 emergency medical technician-paramedic and removing  
9 additional liabilities for instructions to emergency medical  
10 technician-paramedic.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 SECTION 1. SECTION 2, ACT OF NOVEMBER 30, 1976 (P.L.1205, <—  
14 NO.264), REFERRED TO AS THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN LAW, IS  
15 AMENDED TO READ:

16 SECTION 2. TREATMENT RENDERED BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
17 TECHNICIAN.--NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE ACT OF JULY  
18 20, 1974 (P.L.551, NO.190), KNOWN AS THE "MEDICAL PRACTICE ACT  
19 OF 1974," OR THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER ACT TO THE CONTRARY,  
20 ANY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN MAY, IN THE CASE OF AN  
21 EMERGENCY:

(1) RENDER EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE, INCLUDING PULMONARY  
RESUSCITATION; [AND]

(2) PERFORM CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION, BUT EXCLUDING  
THOSE SKILLS ENUMERATED IN SECTION 3; AND

(3) PERFORM THE APPLICATION OF PRESSURE DEVICES TO REDUCE  
PERIPHERAL BLOOD FLOW AND INSERT ESOPHAGEAL OBTURATOR AIRWAY  
DEVICES (EOA), PROVIDED THAT THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN  
HAS COMPLETED SPECIAL TRAINING PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY, THAT  
THE DEVICE IS A TYPE APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY AND THAT THE  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN IS ACTING UNDER DIRECT VERBAL  
MEDICAL COMMAND. IN THE FAILURE OF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS  
PROVIDING SUCH COMMAND, WRITTEN SPECIFIC PROTOCOLS MAY GOVERN  
THE ACTION.

SECTION 2. SECTION 3 OF THE ACT IS AMENDED TO READ:

SECTION 3. TREATMENT RENDERED BY EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC.--IN ADDITION TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION  
2, ANY EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-PARAMEDIC, MAY UPON ORDER OF  
A PHYSICIAN:

(1) ADMINISTER PARENTERAL MEDICATIONS AND SOLUTIONS  
AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY;

(2) PERFORM GASTRIC AND PHARYNGEAL SUCTION BY INTUBATION;

(3) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN AIRWAY BY ENDOTRACHEAL  
INTUBATION OR THE ESOPHAGEAL OBTURATOR AIRWAY (EOA); [AND]

(4) PERFORM DEFIBRILLATION; AND

(5) APPLY THE MAST GARMENT.

~~Section 4 3. Subsection (a) of section 5, act of November 30, 1976 (P.L.1205, No.264), referred to as the Emergency Medical Technician Law, OF THE ACT is amended and a subsection is added to read:~~

Section 5. Liabilities.--(a) No physician, who in good

1 faith gives instructions to an emergency medical technician or  
2 an emergency medical technician-paramedic, shall be liable for  
3 any civil damages as a result of issuing the instructions,  
4 unless guilty of gross or willful negligence.

5 \* \* \*

6 ~~(c) No emergency medical technician or emergency medical~~ <—  
7 ~~technician paramedic, who in good faith attempts to render~~  
8 ~~emergency care authorized by this act while enroute to place of~~  
9 ~~employment, shall receive any form of reprimand or penalty by~~  
10 ~~his or her employer as a result of late arrival at place of~~  
11 ~~employment.~~

12 Section 2 4. This act shall take effect immediately. <—